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CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A disposable container for preparing a comestible material in a microwave oven, comprising:

- a first portion of the container defining a preparation chamber,
- a second portion of the container expandable to define a storage chamber,
- at least the portion of the container defining the preparation chamber being

transparent to microwave energy,

the first portion being extended to define a hollow conduit that connects the preparation chamber to the storage chamber.

wherein the improvement comprises:

the storage chamber portion of the container and the hollow conduit have has a microwave shielding material disposed therearound, wherein the hollow conduit is configured to prevent the entry of substantially all microwave energy into the storage chamber. such that, as a comestible material initially disposed within the preparation chamber is cooked by exposure to microwave energy the comestible material displaces from the preparation chamber into the hollow conduit and then into the storage chamber whereat the comestible material is shielded from further exposure to microwave energy by the microwave shielding material.

2. (Original) The disposable container of claim 1, wherein the portion of the container defining the storage chamber is expandable as a comestible material cooked by exposure to microwave energy displaces thereinto.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The disposable container of claim 1 wherein the conduit projects into the storage chamber such that the projecting portion of the conduit serves as a barrier that retains the cooked comestible material ~~cooked by exposure to microwave energy~~ within the storage chamber.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The disposable container of claim 1 wherein the conduit tapers from the preparation chamber toward to the storage chamber.

8. (Original) The disposable container of claim 1 further comprising a support base connected to the portion of the container defining the preparation chamber.

9. (Original) The disposable container of claim 1 wherein the comestible material is popcorn and wherein the microwave energy causes the popcorn to expand rapidly and

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thereby to displace from the preparation chamber into the storage chamber.

10. (Currently amended) A reusable container for preparing a comestible material in a microwave oven,

a first portion of the container defining a preparation chamber,

a second portion of the container defining a storage chamber,

a hollow conduit able to connect the preparation chamber to the storage chamber,

at least the portion of the container defining the preparation chamber being

transparent to microwave energy,

wherein the improvement comprises:

the storage chamber portion of the container and the hollow conduit has a microwave shielding material disposed therearound,

wherein the hollow conduit is configured to attenuate microwave energy thereby to prevent substantially the entry of microwave energy into the storage chamber, such that, as a comestible material initially disposed within the preparation chamber is cooked by exposure to microwave energy the comestible material displaces from the preparation chamber into the hollow conduit and then into the storage chamber whereat the comestible material is shielded from further exposure to microwave energy by the microwave shielding material.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The reusable container of claim 10 further comprising a generally conical shaped diverter disposed within the storage chamber operative to divert comestible material displaced into the storage chamber.

15. (Original) The reusable container of claim 10 wherein the comestible material is popcorn and wherein the microwave energy causes the popcorn to expand rapidly and thereby to displace from the preparation chamber into the storage chamber.

16. (Currently amended) A self-contained, microwave-preparable comestible article comprising[:] a container and a comestible material wherein

a the container has a first portion defining a preparation chamber and a second portion of the container expandable to define a storage chamber,

the first portion is extended to define a hollow conduit that connects the preparation chamber to the storage chamber,

the expandable portion and the hollow conduit have ~~having~~ a microwave shielding material,

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the hollow conduit is configured to prevent the entry of substantially all microwave energy into the storage chamber.[] and

a the comestible material is disposed in the preparation chamber, such that, as a comestible material is cooked by exposure to microwave energy the comestible material displaces from the preparation chamber into the hollow conduit and then into the storage chamber whereat the comestible material is shielded from further exposure to microwave energy by the microwave shielding material.

17. (Original) The container of claim 16 wherein the comestible material is popcorn and wherein the microwave energy causes the popcorn to expand rapidly and thereby to displace from the preparation chamber into the storage chamber.